UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1790
9 December 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General expresses hope UNPROFOR will be maintained in former Yugoslavia, saying withdrawal would cause situation there to deteriorate; says United Nations is preparing fall-back position in case certain States decide to pull out peace-keepers.

+ General Assembly condemns militant actions of Serb authorities in Croatia; adopts other resolutions on peace-keeping operations, UNRWA and peaceful uses of outer space, on recommendation of Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

+ Human rights constitute foundation and supreme goal of United Nations activities, Secretary-General says in message for Human Rights Day; stresses need for Member States to ratify and abide by rights agreements.

+ Security Council congratulates Joaquim Chissano on his inauguration as President of Mozambique and on installation of new National Assembly; expresses satisfaction at United Nations role in Mozambican reconciliation process.

+ General Assembly authorizes Secretary-General to commit up to $248 million gross to maintain UNPROFOR, UNOSOM II and UNDOF until end of year.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina says United Nations should take urgent action to ensure humanitarian aid reaches Sarajevo, noting onset of winter there; UNHCR aid convoy reaches Bihac pocket.

+ IFAD Executive Board approves eleven new projects worth $227 million at fifty-third session in Rome.

+ 1994 NGO World Forum on Drug Demand Reduction to be held in Bangkok from 12 to 16 December, hosted by Thailand and United Nations Drug Control Programme.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed hope that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) would be maintained in the former

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Yugoslavia, warning that withdrawal of the Force would lead to a degradation of the situation there. However, he told correspondents at Headquarters that the United Nations was preparing "a fall-back position" in case certain Member States decided to withdraw their peace-keepers. He added that no demands had been received from Member States in that regard. He made those comments after briefing the Security Council on his recent travels, including his visit to Sarajevo.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali went on to say that he was in daily contact with the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) regarding the situation in the former Yugoslavia. He stressed that cooperation between the United Nations and NATO, and between NATO and UNPROFOR on the ground, was excellent.

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The General Assembly today condemned the militant actions of the self-proclaimed authorities in the Serb-controlled territories of Croatia. In a resolution adopted by 142 votes in favour to none against, with 18 abstentions, it requested the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to immediately cease any military and logistical support to those authorities. The Assembly concluded that the Federal Republic's activities aimed at integrating the occupied territories into its administrative, military and transportation systems were illegal, null and void, and must cease immediately. It also urged that Croatia's authority be restored in its entire territory and urged respect for human and minority rights there.

The Assembly adopted the resolution on Croatia on the recommendation of its Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization). It also adopted texts on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, and the report of the Special Committee on Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People.

Acting without a vote, the Assembly adopted a wide-ranging resolution on peace-keeping operations. That text provided guidance on mandates, consultation and coordination mechanisms, evaluation, and command and control. It also dealt with finances, resources, planning, organization and effectiveness, the safety and security of United Nations personnel, agreements with troop contributors, public information policy, and cooperation with regional organizations.

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Human rights illuminate all United Nations activities, and constitute their foundation and their supreme goal, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a message for Human Rights Day, commemorated annually on 10 December, he said the protection of human rights was a constant struggle which could not be won without the participation of every man and woman.

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The primary aim of Human Rights Day was to commemorate the General Assembly's adoption, in 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he continued. By that text, the international community proclaimed its faith in the fundamental rights of the individual and in the dignity and worth of the human person. Since 1948, the United Nations had safeguarded not only individual rights, but also civil and political rights. It had also extended its protection to new areas, seeking to prevent genocide, slavery, torture, and discrimination based on race, gender, religion or belief. Moreover, the Assembly had proclaimed the right to the environment, the right to peace, the right to food security and, above all, the right to development.

The United Nations must continue that work, the Secretary-General went on to say. It must also guarantee those rights, particularly through the efforts of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commission for Human Rights, and the Centre for Human Rights. Most importantly, it must constantly encourage Member States to ratify human rights agreements and abide by them.

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The Security Council has congratulated Joaquim Chissano on the occasion of his inauguration as President of Mozambique and the inauguration of the new National Assembly following that country's recent elections. In a message from its President, Manzi Bakuramutsa (Rwanda), to President Chissano, the Council expressed satisfaction regarding those important steps towards national reconciliation in Mozambique. The Council also noted with satisfaction the role of the United Nations in that process.

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The General Assembly has authorized the Secretary-General to commit up to $248 million gross to maintain three United Nations peace-keeping operations until the end of the year. It took that action yesterday by adopting, without a vote, three decisions approved by its Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary).

The decisions authorized the Secretary-General to commit: $140 million for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for December; $106 million for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for November and December; and $2.7 million gross for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for December.

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The Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, Mohamed Sacirbey, today said the Organization should take urgent action to ensure that humanitarian aid could reach Sarajevo. Speaking at a press conference at Headquarters, he noted that road and air links to the city had been cut as a result of the siege by Bosnian Serb forces. The people of Sarajevo were in desperate need of humanitarian relief, particularly with the onset of winter, he added.

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At the same press conference, British actress Vanessa Redgrave presented a declaration calling on citizens of all countries to oppose the plan to permanently divide Sarajevo, and to join in the struggle to preserve tolerance and freedom there. "At this critical moment for us all, citizens of the world community as well as citizens of Sarajevo bear responsibility for the fate of civilized values", she said.

Meanwhile, a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) aid convoy arrived in Bihac today -- the first such convoy to reach the pocket since 1 October. A third resupply convoy also got through to the battalion of Bangladeshi peace-keepers stationed there.

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The Executive Board of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) approved eleven new projects worth $227 million at the end of its fifty-third session in Rome this week. The new projects, to which IFAD is providing $136 million mostly in soft loans, will benefit 350,000 poor households in Eritrea, Chile, Mali, Kenya, Zambia, Bolivia, Costa Rica, China, Lebanon, Albania and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The session, chaired by IFAD President Fawzi Al-Sultan, also approved two technical assistance grants: $400,000 for the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Arab Region, and $300,000 for the Near East and North Africa Management Training in Agriculture.

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The 1994 NGO World Forum on Drug Demand Reduction will be held from 12 to 16 December in Bangkok, Thailand. It will be hosted by the National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand, with support from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). Some 500 representatives of organizations concerned with drug issues and social welfare from all over the world will participate in the Forum, in order to pool their experience and form new partnerships to reduce the demand for drugs.

The focus of the Forum -- a major event of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse (1991-2000) -- will be demand reduction in the context of overall social development. One objective will be the establishment of a mechanism to coordinate the work of non-governmental groups through shared experience and expertise. The Forum will also seek to arrange for non-governmental organizations to report on drug demand reduction activities to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand will address the opening ceremony on 12 December. Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Executive Director of the UNDCP, will give the keynote address on 13 December.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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12 December 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly adopts Convention on safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel; decides to set up ad hoc committee to review issues arising from draft statute for international criminal court.

+ As General Assembly discusses United Nations financial situation, speakers stress need for full and timely payment of contributions.

+ Five Bangladeshi peace-keepers injured in deliberate attack in Bihac enclave; UNPROFOR continues to curtail activities in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina despite arrival of fuel convoy in Sarajevo.

+ Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee rejects draft resolution on capital punishment by 36 votes in favour to 44 against, with 74 abstentions.

+ Secretary-General appoints Dr. Peter Piot of Belgium as Director of joint United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS.

+ Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith of United Kingdom to replace Lieutenant-General Michael Rose as UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 24 January 1995.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends General Assembly approve 4.1 per cent pay increase for Professional and higher category staff as of 1 March 1995.

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The General Assembly has adopted and opened for signature a Convention to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel. It took that action on Friday, in the course of adopting 18 texts recommended by its Sixth Committee (Legal) on a wide range of subjects.

Acting without a vote, the Assembly urged States to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, and to ensure that those responsible for attacks against them were brought to justice. The Convention will enter into force 30 days after the deposit of the twenty-second instrument of ratification or accession. It covers United Nations personnel

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engaged or deployed by the Secretary-General as members of a military, police or civilian component of an operation, as well as officials and experts on missions. Associated personnel are defined as those assigned by a government or an intergovernmental organization to carry out activities directly connected with a United Nations operation.

The Convention obliges States to establish jurisdiction over crimes against United Nations personnel including murder, kidnapping or threat of attack. It defines the duties of States to ensure the safety and security of personnel and to release or return personnel captured or detained. It calls on host States and the United Nations to quickly conclude agreements on the status of the United Nations operation and personnel.

In other actions, the Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc committee to review issues arising from the International Law Commission's draft statute for an international criminal court; decided to consider the deletion of the term "enemy State" from the United Nations Charter; and adopted a Declaration which condemned all acts of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever they were committed.

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The General Assembly met today to discuss the critical financial situation of the United Nations. The representative of Algeria, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, said there were no objective indicators to suggest a link between the Organization's cash flow problems and the existing systems of assessment. He and several other speakers stressed that the situation could be substantially addressed only when all Member States paid their contributions in full and on time.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union and Austria, the representative of Germany asserted that the scale of assessments was closely linked to the issues of arrears and the improvement of the budgetary process. A scale of assessments that was simple, transparent and fair -- and was perceived to be so by Member States -- could contribute to an improvement of payment patterns.

The representative of the United Kingdom stated that a future binding commitment for Member States to be current with all payments was an essential part of any solution, but not sufficient by itself. In order to remove the inequities that had appeared in the scale of assessments for peace-keeping operations, it was necessary to review its methodology and to reapply it to all States on a basis that was demonstrably objective and fair.

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Five Bangladeshi peace-keepers were injured today when they came under attack in the town of Velika Kladusa, in the Bihac pocket, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said two wire-guided anti-tank missiles had been

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fired at their armoured personnel carrier. One of the missiles struck the vehicle, while the other exploded nearby. Meanwhile, Bihac town was shelled on Friday, Sunday and again today.

The spokesman went on to say that a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) fuel convoy had reached Sarajevo today. However, the Force's activities continued to be curtailed because of serious fuel shortages. In a related development, Bosnian Serb forces permitted the rotation of Ukrainian, Russian and French peace-keepers monitoring heavy-weapons assembly points around Sarajevo, but continued to restrict their movement.

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The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) has rejected a draft resolution that would invite restrictions on the use of capital punishment, by a vote of 36 in favour to 44 against, with 74 abstentions. It took that action on Friday, following recorded votes on an amendment and a procedural motion, and the withdrawal of all of the co-sponsors of the draft.

The amendment replaced the draft's preambular paragraph reaffirming the sovereign right of States to determine, in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, the legal measures and penalties appropriate to deal with the most serious crimes, with the following: "Affirming the sovereign right of States to determine the legal measures and penalties which are appropriate in their societies to combat serious crimes effectively". After the adoption of the amendment, by a vote of 71 in favour to 65 against, with 21 abstentions, all 50 co-sponsors of the original draft resolution withdrew their co-sponsorship.

The representative of Egypt then proposed that no action be taken on the draft as a whole, which he said "had no parentage". The no-action motion was defeated by a vote of 60 in favour to 71 against, with 23 abstentions.

Those expressing support for the amendment, which was introduced by Singapore, stressed the importance of State sovereignty. Those opposing it, including the co-sponsors, said the original text's reference to international law and the United Nations Charter did not contradict the principle of State sovereignty. Citing the complexity of the issue, some representatives proposed that the matter be dealt with under the Committee's agenda item on crime prevention and criminal justice, or that it be dealt with by the Sixth Committee (Legal) of the General Assembly.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced the appointment of Dr. Peter Piot, a Belgian national, as Director of the new joint United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS. Dr. Piot has served as Associate Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Programme on AIDS, and as President of the International AIDS Society.

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"Faced with a truly global emergency and its multisectoral needs, it is imperative that the United Nations response is comprehensive and effective", said the Secretary-General. "HIV/AIDS will not be controlled unless all of us, acting as a global community, unite our efforts, coordinate our actions and reduce duplication."

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Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith of the United Kingdom is to replace Lieutenant-General Michael Rose as Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 24 January 1995, when General Rose's term of appointment expires. General Smith was Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations and Security) until November 1994, and helped formulate the United Kingdom's policy towards the former Yugoslavia.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has approved two draft resolutions by which the General Assembly would approve a 4.1 per cent increase in the base salary scale for Professional and higher-category staff as of 1 March 1995. It also recommended a 10.26 per cent rise in allowances for children and secondary dependents from New Year's Day.

At its meeting on Friday, the Committee also considered the financing of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), administrative and budgetary coordination with specialized agencies and the review of United Nations efficiency.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns deliberate and dastardly attack on Bangladeshi peace-keepers in Velika Kladusa yesterday; endorses UNPROFOR protest to Abdic forces and Serb authorities.

+ Bangladesh says attack on its troops calls sanctity of safe areas and credibility of Security Council resolutions into question; urges immediate and forthright action to deter continuing violations.

+ UNHCR maintains food stocks in Sarajevo by overland route, despite closure of airport; United Nations agencies report major humanitarian deliveries in Afghanistan.

+ Secretary-General, in message to Asia-Africa Forum, says momentum generated by Tokyo Conference on African Development must not be lost.

+ Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee approves drafts on United Nations electoral assistance, and on need to protect family unity of undocumented migrants.

+ General Committee recommends General Assembly include items on United Nations cooperation with Caribbean Community and Namibia scholarship programme in current agenda.

+ Crown Prince of Thailand opens NGO Forum on Drug Demand Reduction in Bangkok; UNDCP Executive Director says drug menace threatens all regions of world.

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The Security Council has strongly condemned yesterday's deliberate attack on Bangladeshi United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops in Velika Kladusa, in the Bihac region of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The peace-keepers were travelling in an armoured personnel carrier, unmistakably carrying clear United Nations markings, which was hit by a wire guided anti-tank missile. Five Bangladeshi troops were injured in the attack, and one later died of his wounds.

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In a statement read out by its President, Manzi Bakuramutsa (Rwanda), the Council expressed profound regret at the casualties suffered as a result of the "unprovoked and dastardly attack." It conveyed its deep condolences to the Government of Bangladesh, as well as to the families of the peace-keepers.

The Council endorsed the protest that UNPROFOR had made to the forces loyal to Fikret Abdic and to the local Serb authorities in Knin, and its warning to the authorities in Pale. Stressing its outrage at the attack, the Council demanded that such incidents did not recur. It warned the perpetrators that their heinous act of violence carried corresponding individual responsibility.

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Bangladesh has said that yesterday's attack on its peace-keepers in Velika Kladusa calls into question the sanctity of the safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the credibility of relevant Security Council resolutions. In a letter to the President of the Council dated 12 December, Bangladesh urged that immediate and forthright measures be taken to deter continuing violations of safe area provisions. Restrictions on the freedom of movement and dire threats to the safety of UNPROFOR personnel must also be deterred, it said.

The Council must take forth-right and preventive action, especially the use of air power, to halt artillery, mortar and tank attacks, Bangladesh stressed. Such action was fully justified by existing United Nations mandates, particularly as it appeared that the peace-keepers had been deliberately targeted yesterday.

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Despite the closure of Sarajevo airport three weeks ago, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has maintained its food stocks in the city by the overland route, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that three convoys had reached the Bosnian capital today, and expressed confidence that the UNHCR would be able to continue feeding the civilian population there.

Meanwhile in Afghanistan, United Nations agencies succeeded in getting more than 100 truck-loads of humanitarian aid into Kabul last week. This week, a UNHCR convoy carrying relief supplies reached the town of Kunduz, which houses refugees from Tajikistan, as well as Afghan displaced persons. The spokesman noted that United Nations convoys had been unable to reach Kunduz for 22 months, and expressed hope that the latest news heralded the opening of the area to humanitarian agencies.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, hosted by Japan last year, was an important milestone in international cooperation for development, and

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that the momentum it had generated must not be lost. He made that comment in a message to the Asia-Africa Forum, which is being held this week in Bandung, Indonesia.

The Secretary-General welcomed the new Asia-Africa Forum initiative, which was designed to stimulate cooperation between Asian and African countries, and serve as a launching pad for generating concrete and operational programmes. He said that Africa had much to learn from the development experiences of Asia, and that there was much that the world could learn from Africa's experiences.

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The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today approved a draft resolution providing guidance for United Nations electoral assistance activities, by 142 votes in favour to none against, with 14 abstentions. The Committee also approved four drafts on the advancement of women and five on human rights questions, without a vote.

Yesterday, the Committee approved a draft resolution emphasizing the vital importance of family reunification, and the need to promote its integration into national laws in order to protect the family unity of undocumented migrants. It took that action by 78 votes in favour to 4 against (Australia, Israel, United Kingdom, United States), with 65 abstentions. The Committee approved a total of four drafts on the advancement of women and eight on human rights questions yesterday.

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The General Committee today recommended that the General Assembly include in its current agenda a new item on cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community. It said the item should be considered directly in plenary session. The Committee also recommended inclusion of an item entitled "United Nations Fund for Namibia: scholarship programme for Namibia", to be considered in plenary.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the United States representative questioned the Committee's practice of including additional agenda items under rule 15 of the Assembly's rules of procedure. That rule makes provisions for inclusion of items of "an important and urgent character" during the course of an Assembly session. Noting that rule 15 had been designed to address items that could not be raised prior to the commencement of an Assembly session, or postponed to the next session, he called for a more orderly usage of the rule and a more timely introduction of new items.

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The NGO World Forum on Drug Demand Reduction today held its first plenary meeting in Bangkok. Opening the Forum yesterday, Crown Prince Maha

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Vajiralongkorn of Thailand called drug addiction a "major problem of these days, not only from the standpoint of the addict's health but also in terms of social welfare and national security".

Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna and Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) stressed the importance of addressing the "escalating drug menace that today threatens all regions of the world". While the Forum was not an official United Nations conference, the UNDCP supported it because of the vital role non-governmental organizations played in the fight against drugs.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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14 December 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council permits export of 12,000 vials of diphtheria anti-serum from Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, citing major resurgence of disease.

+ Security Council welcomes inauguration of Mozambique's President and National Assembly, saying peace, stability and democracy can now be secured; notes termination of ONUMOZ mandate.

+ UNAMIR moves large force into two camps for displaced persons in south-west Rwanda to prevent destabilization by former military elements.

+ General Assembly expected to admit Palau as 185th Member State of United Nations tomorrow.

+ Secretary-General decides to transmit report on Burundi events of October 1993 to Bujumbura in light of recent political developments.

+ Cooperation between United Nations and Organization of the Islamic Conference is essential for peace and development, Secretary-General says.

+ Economic and Financial Committee approves draft resolutions on Agenda for Development, debt reduction, and sustainable development in developing countries.

+ Chilean investigator to announce decision in Carmelo Soria murder inquiry; Secretary-General expresses hope case will be resolved, citing United Nations demands for justice.

+ UNFPA convenes high-level meeting with view to speeding implementation of Population and Development Conference recommendations in Africa.

+ ICJ resumes consideration of maritime delimitation and territorial questions between Qatar and Bahrain.

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For information media—not an official record

The Security Council today decided to permit the export of 12,000 vials of diphtheria anti-serum from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) for a period of thirty days. It thus provided an exemption from the provisions of resolution 757 (1992), which imposed sanctions on that country. The Council took that action, under Chapter VII of the Charter, by unanimously adopting resolution 967 (1994).

The Council noted that there had been a major resurgence of diphtheria, and that the only available stocks of anti-serum were located in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It said any payments for the authorized shipments should be made only into frozen accounts.

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The Security Council today welcomed the inauguration of Joaquim Chissano as President of Mozambique and the inauguration of the new National Assembly following the country's first multi-party elections in October. The elections were declared free and fair and endorsed by the Council on 21 November. In a statement read out by its President, Manzi Bakuramutsa (Rwanda), the Council congratulated Mozambique's people and parties for their peaceful fulfilment of the goals set out in the General Peace Agreement. It expressed confidence that the country would now secure lasting peace, stability, national reconciliation and democracy.

The Council noted that the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) had come to an end, and that the Operation would be finally withdrawn by 31 January 1995. It looked forward to the Secretary-General's report on the final disposition of ONUMOZ's assets within the framework of the withdrawal. It also expressed the hope that effective arrangements for the destruction of weapons and the establishment, with the assistance of the United Nations, of a national demining capability would be in place prior to the final withdrawal.

The Council emphasized that the post-election period would be an important and delicate time, during which there would be a continuing need for international assistance for reconstruction and redevelopment in Mozambique. It urged all States and relevant international organizations to provide such assistance.

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The United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) this morning moved a force of 1,500 peace-keepers into two camps housing displaced persons in the south-west of the country, according to a spokesman for the Organization. It took that action because elements of the former government's army and militia had been operating in the camps, causing instability in the region. Some 60 people had been killed there in the last month.

The new Rwandan Government had announced its intention to close the camps by the end of the year, using force if necessary. However, UNAMIR had prevailed on it to avoid unilateral action, the spokesman said. Government

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troops formed a perimeter around the camps while the UNAMIR peace-keepers deployed today. Around 30 people were detained in the presence of human rights monitors, and registered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

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The General Assembly is tomorrow expected to admit Palau as the 185th Member State of the United Nations. The President of Palau, Kuniwo Nakamura, will address the Assembly following that action. He will later attend the flag-raising ceremony marking his country's admission.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to transmit to the Government of Burundi the report by Ambassadors Siméon Aké (Côte d'Ivoire) and Martin Hûslid (Norway) on the events of October 1993 in Burundi. He took that decision in the light of political developments connected with the signing of the Convention of Government on 10 September 1994, the election of a President on 30 September 1994 and the formation of a new Government on 5 October 1994. This report will be transmitted to President Ntibantunganya shortly by the Secretary-General.

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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is essential in the areas of peace and development, according to the Secretary-General. He said that the United Nations could not single-handedly deal with all the world's problems, and that it needed the support and cooperation of all regional organizations. He made those comments, in French, in a message to the OIC Summit in Casablanca yesterday.

In its efforts to resolve the crises afflicting Africa, the United Nations enjoyed the full support of the OIC, as well as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the League of Arab States, the Secretary-General continued. Close cooperation between the United Nations and the regional organizations was particularly evident in Somalia. The Organization was also receiving support from OIC countries in the field in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Secretary-General recalled that he had invited regional organizations to consider, together with senior officials of the United Nations, ways of ensuring peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes more effectively. He stressed that he remained open to any proposals the OIC might wish to make in that regard.

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The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) has approved a draft resolution calling for continued work early next year on the elaboration of an action-oriented, comprehensive Agenda for Development. The draft -- one of eight approved by the Committee without a vote yesterday -- would have the General Assembly establish an ad hoc open-ended working group for that purpose.

By another draft, the Assembly would call on the international community to address the debt problems of developing countries in the elaboration of An Agenda for Development. It would recognize that a durable solution of the debt problems of the poorest countries suggested even more favourable terms of debt-relief measures, including a reduction of debt stock.

Also approved was a draft resolution calling for increased efforts to ensure the flow of substantial resources for sustained economic growth and sustainable development in developing countries. That draft stressed that developing and developed countries should strive towards a true partnership, including ownership and broad-based participation in recipient countries.

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The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has convened a high-level meeting at Headquarters to make recommendations to speed implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. The meeting is being attended by government officials from sub-Saharan Africa and family-planning experts from the public and private sectors. It is part of a series of regional consultations being conducted by the UNFPA as follow-up to the Cairo Conference.

Among the topics to be discussed at the two-day meeting are Africa and the Cairo Programme of Action; problems and priorities of Africa; and strategies for increasing political and legislative commitment and support to population programmes in sub-Saharan Africa. The Cairo Programme contains a set of 20-year goals which include reducing current levels of infant and maternal mortality; making family planning universally available; and increasing education levels, especially for girls. The Programme also calls for follow-up by international agencies, governments and non-governmental organizations.

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The Chilean Supreme Court Justice in charge of the case of Carmelo Soria, a staff member of the Economic Commission for Latin America who was murdered in Chile in 1976, will soon announce his decision, the Secretary-General announced today. He expressed the hope that the decision would facilitate a resolution of the case. He recalled that the United Nations had always taken an active interest in the outcome of the investigation, and had demanded that justice be done.

The Organization's interest in the case was motivated by its right and duty under the Charter to protect its staff members, the Secretary-General said. He noted that the investigating Judge, in a decision dated 30 December 1993, had found that Mr. Soria's death was an act of homicide. According to the Judge's findings, Mr. Soria had been detained on 4 July 1976 by military personnel belonging to the military secret police. He had subsequently been interrogated, tortured and murdered by his captors.

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has said it is resuming consideration of maritime delimitation and territorial questions between Qatar and Bahrain, after both countries indicated their willingness to submit the whole of their dispute to the Court.

In July, the ICJ issued a judgement that Qatar and Bahrain had entered into international agreements by which they had undertaken to submit their dispute to the Court. Those agreements consisted of exchanges of letters between the King of Saudi Arabia and the Amir of Qatar in December 1987, and a document signed at Doha in December 1990 by the Foreign Ministers of Bahrain, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, containing the "Bahraini formula".

In its judgement, however, the ICJ indicated that since the question was before it only through an application filed by Qatar in 1991 that set forth that country's claim alone, the Court was not seized of the entire dispute as provided by the international agreement of 1990. The Court thus decided to give the parties the opportunity to submit the whole of their dispute by 30 November 1994. On that date, the Court received communications from Qatar and Bahrain accepting its July judgement and its jurisdiction over the dispute. A new judgement is expected as soon as possible.

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Daily Highlights

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15 December 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly admits Republic of Palau as 185th Member State of United Nations; President Nakamura says his country's independence represents victory for principle of self-determination.

+ Vice-President of Rwanda, in address to Security Council, appeals for international help in dealing with armed elements intimidating and killing Rwandese refugees in Zaire.

+ Secretary-General welcomes former United States President Carter's efforts in relation to former Yugoslavia.

+ Bosnian Serbs agree to clear UNPROFOR flights for troop rotation and to ease restrictions on convoy movement through checkpoints.

+ Development is primary imperative of our time, but United Nations has to respond to crisis after crisis in maintaining peace and security, Secretary-General tells Harvard University.

+ Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNFICYP mandate for six months; says Force's presence is indispensable to maintenance of Cyprus cease-fire.

+ Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, concluding work for current session, approves draft resolutions on human rights in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

+ DPI launches new series of blue books with publication on United Nations role in struggle against apartheid.

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The General Assembly today admitted the Republic of Palau as the 185th Member State of the United Nations. The country's admission represented the culmination of the United Nations trusteeship system established at the end of the Second World War.

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For information media—not an official record

Addressing the Assembly, the President of Palau, Kuniwo Nakamura, said his country's independence and admission to the United Nations represented a victory for the principle of self-determination. Palau's young constitutional democracy must now focus on building economic self-sufficiency, which was an essential component of true sovereignty. Natural resources were its best foundation for developing a strong economy. He noted that Palau's Declaration of Independence pledged to preserve its marine environment as a "living treasure" for the entire planet.

Also today, the Assembly called on the United Nations to coordinate its efforts and to cooperate with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in the pacific settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace and security in Africa. In a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly encouraged the United Nations and its Member States to help the OAU to strengthen its conflict resolution capacity.

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Rwanda today appealed to the international community for assistance in disarming and relocating "uniformed, armed killers that were intimidating and killing Rwandese refugees" in Zaire who wished to return home. In an address to the Security Council, the Vice-President and Minister of Defence of Rwanda, Major-General Paul Kagame, also asked for international assistance to address the question of impunity.

Major-General Kagame said former Rwandese government leaders, who were continuing to mislead Rwandese refugees in neighbouring countries, were being strengthened by international assistance that was "almost blindly directed to them through inconsistent international policies" and violations of the rules that governed activities of United Nations agencies.

He urged the international community "to help the Rwandese people help themselves". Peace and stability in Rwanda and the region would depend on what the international community could do and how swiftly it could do it. Sending the right message to the criminals and addressing the problem of immunity was the best solution of all, he added.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) today completed its security operation in two camps housing displaced persons in the south-west of the country, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Forty-seven persons suspected of criminal activity were detained, registered and turned over to Government authorities, and 1,000 weapons were seized.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed former United States President Jimmy Carter's efforts in relation to the situation in the former Yugoslavia. He said Mr. Carter was conscious of the need for such efforts to be fully synchronized with those of the Secretary-General's Special

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Representative, as well as those of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and the Contact Group, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and possible contradictions.

The former President telephoned the Secretary-General yesterday evening to inform him of his contacts with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, and undertook to keep him informed about any further developments. The Secretary-General also spoke yesterday with United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the same subject.

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Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has agreed to clear United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) flights for the purpose of troop rotation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a spokesman for the Organization. He took that action after Special Representative Yasushi Akashi warned him that UNPROFOR operations would be shut down if freedom of movement problems were not resolved. Two UNPROFOR aircraft were expected to fly in today or tomorrow, weather permitting.

At a meeting with the Special Representative in Pale yesterday, Mr. Karadzic also agreed to drop restrictions on armoured personnel carriers accompanying United Nations convoys, and to ease restrictions on movement through checkpoints, the spokesman said. The Bosnian Serbs today returned three hijacked Dutch fuel tankers -- minus their fuel -- and promised to return two Dutch jeeps that had been stolen.

The spokesman said Mr. Akashi had also protested the continued shelling of Bihac and discussed his proposal for a comprehensive cease-fire agreement. Meanwhile, fighting around Bihac continued today, with sporadic shelling in Velika Kladusa. A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoy trying to get into the pocket was blocked by Croatian Serbs.

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The United Nations is frustrated in its effort to make long-term progress on development because it is required to deal with crisis after crisis and confrontation after confrontation, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He told Harvard University yesterday that the Organization was forced to focus on peace-keeping, even though development was "the primary imperative of our time".

Multilateral operations through the United Nations were the most effective way of maintaining peace, he went on to say. That was particularly true now that conflicts within States were more common than wars between them. However, the effectiveness of multilateralism was difficult to demonstrate without adequate financial and material support. Until those requirements were addressed, the Organization would have great difficulty in performing the tasks entrusted to it.

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States must learn to use the United Nations to handle the new forms of conflict, the Secretary-General stressed. Only when that was done could development be given the proper attention. "In development, lies our greatest hope for moving the world towards enduring peace and prosperity", he concluded.

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The Security Council should extend the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for six months to 30 June 1995, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 12 December, he said the Force's presence remained indispensable to the maintenance of the cease-fire and law and order on the island.

In the last six months, UNFICYP had carried out its functions effectively with the cooperation of both sides, and the situation had remained generally quiet, he continued. However, there was only a cease-fire in Cyprus, not peace. The situation remained subject to sudden tensions, generated by events outside the island as well as within. In that connection, relations between Greece and Turkey were particularly important.

The Secretary-General expressed concern about the excessive level of armaments and forces in Cyprus, and the rate at which they were being strengthened. He deplored the fact that the Council's call for a reduction in the number of foreign troops and a reduction of defence spending in the Republic of Cyprus had not been heeded. He also noted that no progress had been made on the modest measures, repeatedly called for by the Council, aimed at reducing the confrontation between the two sides along the cease-fire lines.

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The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) yesterday approved a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would condemn all human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia, including "ethnic cleansing", killings, torture, rape, disappearances and forced evictions. It took that action by a vote of 130 in favour to none against, with 14 abstentions. The draft was one of fifteen approved by the Committee yesterday as it concluded its work for the current session.

The Committee approved a draft resolution on human rights in Rwanda, which would have the Assembly condemn those preventing the voluntary repatriation of refugees, and those obstructing humanitarian access in refugee camps. The Assembly would also welcome the establishment of the International Tribunal for Rwanda, and would reaffirm that all persons who had committed genocide and serious violations of international humanitarian law would be held individually responsible. The Government's efforts to restore the rule of law and reconstruct the judicial system would be welcomed, and members of the international community would be invited to provide assistance in support of those efforts.

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The Department of Public Information (DPI) today launched a new series of "blue books", with the publication of The United Nations and Apartheid, 1948-1994, an account of South Africa's transformation from the era of apartheid to the establishment of a non-racial democratic government.

The series covers major developments in international relations in which the Organization has played a leading role. Each volume features an introduction by the Secretary-General, a detailed chronology of events, and a comprehensive collection of United Nations documentation and other materials. The latest publication brings together the texts of more than 200 key resolutions, statements and other materials relating to the struggle against apartheid.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1795
16 December 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council establishes United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan to monitor implementation of cease-fire and provide good offices; calls on Tajik parties to strive for comprehensive political settlement.

+ General Assembly urges parties to Middle East peace process to implement agreements reached; reiterates demand for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Syrian Golan.

+ General Assembly urges Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate with IAEA; stresses need for Iraq to continue cooperating with Agency in implementation of Security Council resolutions.

+ Secretary-General expresses hope Western Sahara transitional period will start on 1 June 1995, with view to referendum in October; recommends Security Council expand MINURSO to speed identification and registration process.

+ Prosecutor of International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to visit Kigali next week for consultations with Government, UNAMIR and human rights officials.

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The Security Council today established the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) for a period of up to six months, in accordance with the plan outlined in the Secretary-General's report of 30 November. It said the Mission would continue beyond 6 February 1995 only if the Tajik parties extended the Agreement of 17 September on a Temporary Cease-fire on the Tajik-Afghan Border, and remained committed to an effective cease-fire, national reconciliation and the promotion of democracy. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 968 (1994).

The Council mandated the Mission to assist the Joint Commission to monitor implementation of the 17 September Agreement; investigate cease-fire violations and report on them to the United Nations and the Joint Commission;

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For information media—not an official record

and provide its good offices as stipulated in the Agreement. The Mission will also maintain close contacts with the parties to the conflict, as well as close liaison with the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Mission in Tajikistan and with the Collective Peace-keeping Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States and with the border forces; support the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy; and provide political liaison and coordination services, which could facilitate international humanitarian assistance.

The Council called on the parties to redouble their efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict as soon as possible. It urged them to strictly comply with their obligations to fully implement the Agreement of 17 September and to refrain from any steps that would aggravate the existing situation or hinder the process of national reconciliation. The Council asked the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund to support implementation of the Agreement, and encouraged Member States to contribute to it.

* * *

The General Assembly today expressed its full support for the peace process thus far in the Middle East and urged all parties to implement the agreements reached. In a resolution adopted by 149 votes in favour to 4 against (Iran, Lebanon, Libya, Syria), with 2 abstentions (Antigua and Barbuda and Sudan), the Assembly stressed the need for rapid progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. It also called on all Member States to extend financial and technical assistance to parties in the region and to provide support for the peace process.

The Assembly also adopted a resolution on Jerusalem by a vote of 138 in favour to 2 against (Costa Rica and Israel), with 7 abstentions (Antigua and Barbuda, Cote d'Ivoire, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Marshall Islands, United States and Zambia). It determined that Israel's decision to impose its laws and administration on the city was illegal, null and void. It also deplored the transfer by some States of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem, and called on them to abide by relevant Security Council resolutions.

In a third resolution on the situation in the Middle East, the General Assembly demanded once more that Israel withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan, saying that the continued occupation of the Golan and its de facto annexation constituted a stumbling-block in the way of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. The Assembly took that action by a vote of 77 in favour to 2 against (Israel and United States), with 70 abstentions.

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The General Assembly has urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate immediately with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the full implementation of its safeguards agreement and to allow the Agency to have access to all safeguards-relevant information and locations. The

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Assembly took that action yesterday by adopting a resolution on the report of the IAEA. There were 161 votes in favour to 1 against (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), with 6 abstentions (China, Cuba, Ghana, Iran, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Viet Nam).

By the same resolution, the Assembly noted that the IAEA was now in a position to implement its ongoing Monitoring and Verification Plan in Iraq. It stressed the need for Iraq to continue its cooperation with the Agency in achieving the complete and long-term implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Also yesterday, the Assembly took action on 22 reports recommended by its First Committee (Disarmament and International Security). It adopted 43 draft resolutions, 21 of them by recorded vote, and two draft decisions, one by recorded vote. Most of the recorded votes were taken on nuclear-related resolutions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed hope that, by 31 March 1995, enough progress will be achieved in the identification and registration of voters in Western Sahara to enable him to recommend 1 June 1995 as the date for the start of the transitional period. He visited the region last month, and had consultations with the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia El-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO) and the Moroccan Government. He also visited the headquarters of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) at Laayoune.

In his latest report to the Security Council on Western Sahara, the Secretary-General said that as of 1 June 1995, in accordance with the settlement plan, the combatants of both sides would be confined to designated locations. As soon as possible after that date, prisoners-of-war would be exchanged and all political prisoners and detainees would be released. By mid-August, the reduction of Moroccan forces present in the Territory would be completed and all laws or measures that could obstruct a free and fair referendum would be suspended.

The Secretary-General recommended that the Council expand MINURSO to facilitate the timely completion of the identification and registration process. The Identification Commission would require an extra 51 Professional staff, while the civilian police component would need another 105 officers. In mid-August, assuming the Council approved the expansion, the registration and identification process should be completed and the final list of voters published. He envisaged that the referendum would take place in October 1995.

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The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Justice

(more)

Richard Goldstone, will visit Kigali on 19 and 20 December. The purpose of the visit will be to hold consultations relating to the setting up of the Office of the Prosecutor of the Rwanda Tribunal.

Accompanied by three senior members of his staff, Justice Goldstone will have meetings with high-level officials of the Government of Rwanda. He will also meet with the Secretary-General's Special Representative, officials of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), the Special Investigation Unit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and relevant non-governmental organizations.

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1796
19 December 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council to hold more open meetings to improve flow of information between Council members and other United Nations Member States.

+ Special Commission on disarmament of Iraq reports considerable progress towards fulfilment of its mandate in last six months; notes testing of ongoing monitoring and verification system.

+ Former United States President Carter meets with Bosnian Serb leaders in Pale; ICRC reports continued ethnic cleansing in Serb-controlled territory in north-east Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General expresses sadness at death of Bradford Morse, former Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs and UNDP Administrator.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves additional $6.3 million appropriation for Integrated Management Information System for 1994-1995, and $1 million authorization for 1996.

+ Inter-clan fighting resumes in Mogadishu as Somali peace efforts fail; United States to assist security operation for withdrawal of UNOSOM II.

+ WFP secures contributions to cover 88,000-tonnes shortfall in emergency food aid for Mozambique.

+ Sub-Saharan African countries agree on programme to implement Plan of Action adopted by Cairo Population Conference.

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Press Release DH/1796
19 December 1994

The Security Council has said it will meet more often in open sessions to improve the flow of information and ideas between members of the Council and other United Nations Member States. In a statement read out by its President, Manzi Bakuramutsa (Rwanda), on Friday night, the Council stated that it wished to respond to the widespread desire for greater recourse to open meetings.

The Presidential statement followed discussion on a French proposal that the Council meet in public for "orientation debates" in which non-Council members could participate, and for public exchanges of views between Council members. Several representatives said that greater transparency in the Council's work and expanded participation by non-members would enhance its credibility and assure greater compliance with its mandates. Speakers also called for the participation of parties to conflicts in private Security Council consultations concerning those conflicts.

France told the Council that under its Provisional Rules of Procedure, public meetings should be the rule, not the exception. The United Kingdom said the Council should strive for the greatest possible transparency in its work consistent with efficiency and effectiveness. Informal consultations, through which so much of the Council's work was conducted, must be retained.

Under the Charter, the Security Council acted on behalf of all Member States and must be accountable to them, China stressed. Democratization and transparency would help the general membership better understand Council decision-making, and enhance the authority of its decisions. Brazil said the Provisional Rules of Procedure provided no basis for informal consultations. Since the substantive work of the Council currently took place in those consultations, they should be provided for legally; otherwise, legally-binding decisions would be made at meetings for which there was no legal basis.

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The Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq has made much progress towards the fulfilment of its mandate in the last six months, according to the latest report of the Commission's Executive Chairman. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a note dated 15 December.

The Commission said that its ongoing monitoring and verification system was provisionally operational and that its efficacy was being tested. Meanwhile, the major elements for chemical and missile monitoring were in place and interim monitoring in the chemical area had begun. In addition, a mechanism for monitoring Iraq's trade in dual-purpose items had been elaborated and appeared to have met with approval.

The report covered certain issues which had yet to be resolved. It stressed that Iraq must provide credible accounts for all its past proscribed programmes and capabilities and supporting evidence, so that the Commission could be confident it was monitoring all facilities covered by Council resolutions. The report also called attention to the Commission's serious financial situation, which jeopardized the monitoring and verification regime and might even endanger continuous operations.

* * *

Former United States President Jimmy Carter met today with the Bosnian Serb leadership in Pale, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Carter was briefed earlier in the day by military and civilian staff of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), which is facilitating all aspects of his visit in the mission area. Yesterday, he had a meeting with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi in Zagreb.

At a press conference in Sarajevo yesterday, the former President said he was in the region to assist in the alleviation of tension; the reopening of Sarajevo airport; the passage of humanitarian convoys; and the release of all United Nations personnel. He also sought to focus attention on the protection of human rights, and hoped to see some progress towards a comprehensive cease-fire and negotiations based on the Contact Group's proposal.

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Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has reported that ethnic cleansing continued last week in Serb-controlled territory in north-east Bosnia. It said that some 111 non-Serbs had arrived in Tuzla after being driven out of Bijeljina.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed great sadness at the death of Bradford Morse. Mr. Morse was Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs from 1972 to 1976, and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 1976 to 1986. He also served six terms in the United States House of Representatives.

The Secretary-General said Mr. Morse exemplified the best qualities of the international civil servant, citing his work to promote the UNDP's role in economic and social development.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today approved an additional $6.3 million appropriation for the United Nations Integrated Management Information System for the 1994-1995 biennium. It also approved another $1 million commitment authorization for 1996. The Committee took that action on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

The ACABQ recommendations were made after considering a request by the Secretary-General for $7.3 million for the System in the 1994-1995 biennium. The funds will be used to strengthen and extend the duration of a project team hired to help with the introduction of the System.

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Inter-clan fighting resumed in Mogadishu today as Somali efforts to find a formula for a peace settlement produced no results, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that the United States would be joining the multinational effort to provide back-up security for the withdrawal of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), which would take place through the first quarter of next year.

The spokesman said that despite the situation in Somalia, the World Food Programme (WFP) had managed to distribute almost 400,000 metric tons of food aid to some 250,000 people in need in the last month.

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Donors have acted promptly to cover a shortfall of 88,000 tonnes in emergency food aid for Mozambique, according to the WFP. Since the shortfall was announced in late October, the Programme has received pledges of 85,600 tonnes of maize and 3,200 tonnes of vegetable oil that will allow food distribution to continue as planned, particularly for refugees who returned from neighbouring countries this year.

The shortfall was due to an increase in the estimated number of people who will need food aid in early 1995. In mid-1994, returnees began to arrive in Mozambique in larger numbers and at a faster pace than expected, while more people were effected by poor crops in the centre and south of the country. TheWFP plans to distributefood aid to1.5 million people thismonth.

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Participants at last week's high-level meeting on implementation of the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development agreed on a comprehensive follow-up programme for sub-Saharan Africa. The meeting was one in a series of regional consultations being conducted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Representatives from 27 sub-Saharan African countries, including ministers, senior parliamentarians and health experts, issued a set of recommendations for the region. They advocated the creation of a strategy, adaptable to each African country, to mobilize broad support for the Cairo Plan of Action, and the integration of reproductive health and family planning services into primary health care systems.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1797
20 December 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- General Assembly adopts 14 resolutions in order to strengthen coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance; calls for assistance to Afghanistan, Croatia, Djibouti, El Salvador, Liberia, Mozambique, Somalia, front-line States and Palestinian People.

- General Assembly establishes open-ended working group to advance action-oriented agenda for development; closes United Nations Fund for Namibia; expresses support for Central American peace efforts.

- Former United States President Carter announces agreement on four-month cease-fire by Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb leadership; UNHCR reports resumption of humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo and relative ease of movement through territory controlled by Bosnian Serbs.

- UNPROFOR completes arrangements for reopening of Zagreb-Belgrade international highway tomorrow; Highway Patrol Command established as confidence-building measure.

- Secretary-General appoints Major-General Johannes Kosters of Netherlands as Force Commander of UNDOF.

- ECLAC presents preliminary overview of economy of Latin America and Caribbean in 1994; reports continued growth and moderate inflation, but insufficient job creation.

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The General Assembly today adopted a consolidated series of 14 resolutions in order to strengthen the coordination of United Nations humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, including special economic assistance. By one resolution on the overall coordination of humanitarian assistance, the Assembly recognized the need to increase the resources available to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. It also stressed the need to create a sound and stable financial basis for the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

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For information media—not an official record

Several of today's resolutions dealt with assistance to specific countries and regions. One requested the Secretary-General to authorize the special mission to Afghanistan to continue efforts towards national rapprochement and reconstruction. It urged all States to assist the restoration of basic services and the resettlement of refugees in Afghanistan. By another resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to appoint a fact-finding expert mission for Croatia. The mission would assess the extent of war damage there and consider the need to assist the Government in rehabilitation, reconstruction and development.

In another action, the Assembly urged all States and organizations to continue to implement Assembly resolution 47/160, regarding assistance to Somalia, and to support the Somali people in rehabilitating basic social and economic services. It appealed to the Somali parties to stop fighting and to engage in a national reconciliation process that would allow for a transition from relief to reconstruction and development. Today's resolutions also dealt with the need for assistance for Mozambique, Liberia, Djibouti, El Salvador, front-line States and the Palestinian People.

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The General Assembly has established an ad hoc open-ended working group to further elaborate an action-oriented agenda for development. It took that action yesterday, by one of 46 resolutions adopted on the recommendation of its Second Committee (Economic and Financial). The Assembly also closed the United Nations Fund for Namibia and transferred its assets to the Namibian Government; expressed support for the decision of the Central American Presidents to declare Central America a region of peace, democracy and development; and adopted a text on an African nuclear-weapon-free zone, recommended by its First Committee (Disarmament and International Security).

On the agenda for development, the Assembly decided that the working group should begin work early in 1995, and that it should consider the proposal to convene a United Nations conference on development. The Assembly also adopted a resolution on the foreign debt problem of developing countries, which recognized the need for more favourable relief measures, including a reduction of debt stock. In another text, it endorsed the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development, and acknowledged that factors such as population, health, education and the empowerment of women were interconnected. It decided that a revitalized Population Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development, to meet annually beginning in 1996. In a related resolution, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General to prepare a report on international migration and development, including aspects related to the convening of a United Nations conference on the subject.

Several resolutions referred to the outcome of the Uruguay Round of trade talks. The Assembly deplored any attempt to bypass agreed measures of trade liberalization through unilateral actions, over and above those agreed to in the Round. It also reaffirmed that environmental and social concerns should not be used for protectionist purposes.

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Former United States President Jimmy Carter today announced that the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serb leadership had agreed to a four-month cease-fire, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Carter made that announcement in Zagreb, after visits to Sarajevo and Pale facilitated by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Meanwhile, the humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo resumed today, with four flights into the city. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also reported relative ease of movement through territory controlled by Bosnian Serb forces. The Bosnian Serbs gave approval for 14 convoys today, but refused to allow a fuel convoy into the eastern enclave of Gorazde. However, the Croatian Serbs continued to present difficulties, blocking a medical supply convoy bound for the Bangladeshi battalion in the Bihac pocket for the seventh day in a row.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi today announced that UNPROFOR had completed its arrangements for the reopening of the Zagreb-Belgrade international highway. Barriers will be removed tomorrow, under the terms of the Economic Agreement signed by the Croatian Government and the Serb authorities in Knin on 2 December. Mr. Akashi said the reopening of the highway would bring substantial economic and social benefits to both sides, and represented a significant step towards the normalization of relations between them.

As a confidence-building measure, a United Nations Civilian Police (UNCIVPOL) Highway Patrol Command has been established, comprising 150 monitors. UNPROFOR's existing military deployment will provide additional security on both sides of the highway.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Major-General Johannes Kosters of the Netherlands as Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNPROFOR). The Force supervises the Israeli-Syrian Agreement on Disengagement of 1974.

Major-General Kosters will assume command of UNDOF in mid-January. He succeeds Major-General Roman Misztal of Poland, who was Force Commander from 1 October 1991 to 30 November 1994.

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The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) today presented its Preliminary Overview of the Economy of Latin America and the Caribbean 1994. According to ECLAC estimates, the region's gross domestic product grew by 3.7 per cent this year, compared to an annual average of 3.2 per cent in 1991-93. As a consequence, per capita income grew by 1.9 per

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cent. Meanwhile, prices appeared to be under control, with eight countries achieving single-digit inflation rates.

Latin American and Caribbean exports grew by 14 per cent to $153 billion in 1994, assisted by economic recovery in the industrial countries and the resulting expansion of international trade. Despite the improved economic situation, not enough jobs were created in most countries in the region. Restructuring continued to reduce the demand for labour, while the labour force grew at a rapid rate, stimulated by higher rates of participation.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1798
21 December 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends mandate of UNFICYP for six months to 30 June 1995; urges leaders of both communities to promote tolerance and reconciliation.

+ Secretary-General says former United States President Carter's visit to former Yugoslavia created new momentum which can be built upon; Special Representative to visit Sarajevo and Pale tomorrow, with view to formal signing of Bosnian cease-fire agreement.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends General Assembly appropriate $937 million for peace-keeping operations in former Yugoslavia and Georgia; approves extra $13 million for other missions and programmes.

+ Multinational Force in Haiti reports steady progress in establishing Interim Public Security Force, noting acceptance by Haitian people; launches anti-crime missions in Port-au-Prince area.

+ Member States owe United Nations $2 billion as of 15 December; $500 million owed to regular budget and $1.5 billion to peace-keeping.

+ Rwandan Government says it will cooperate fully with International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in establishment of Prosecutor's Office in January.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for six months to 30 June 1995. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 969 (1994). The Council expressed its concern that there had been no progress towards a final political solution, and urged the leaders of both communities to promote tolerance and reconciliation between the two communities. In a report to the Council dated 12 December, the Secretary-General said the Force's presence was indispensable to the maintenance of the cease-fire and law and order on the island.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that Former United States President Jimmy Carter's visit to the former Yugoslavia created a new momentum which can be built upon, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Carter yesterday announced that the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serb leadership had agreed to a four-month cease-fire.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi will meet with the parties in Sarajevo and Pale tomorrow, with a view to the formal signing of a cease-fire agreement to take effect on Friday, the spokesman continued. Talks on a complete cessation of hostilities are expected to begin soon, possibly early next week.

The spokesman went on to say that today was the quietest day in the Bihac pocket for several weeks. Meanwhile, the Zagreb-Belgrade international highway reopened "without a hitch". However, there was bad news from Sarajevo -- only two out of 25 scheduled flights landed at the city today as a result of heavy snow.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate $937 million gross for United Nations peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia and Georgia. It recommended an additional $13 million for other missions and programmes. The Committee took those actions yesterday, by approving two draft resolutions and four draft decisions without a vote.

By the terms of one draft resolution, the Assembly would appropriate $928 million gross ($922 million net) for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from 1 October 1994 to 31 March 1995. For periods after that, it would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $135 million monthly for the period 1 April to 30 June 1995. Meanwhile, the Assembly would assess Member States $404 million.

The other draft resolution would have the Assembly appropriate almost $9 million gross ($8.5 million net) for the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for the period from 1 July 1994 to 13 January 1995. After that date, the Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $1.7 million monthly for a six-month period, and assess Member States the same amount.

By its four draft decisions, the Committee recommended the following appropriations: $10 million for the Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA); $2.2 million for the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories; almost $800,000 for the International Seabed Authority of the Law of the Sea for the period 16 November 1994 to 31 December 1995; and $400,000 for the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

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There has been steady progress in the establishment of the Haitian Interim Public Security Force, according to the latest report of the Multinational Force. Covering the two-week period from 4 to 18 December, it was transmitted by the United States to the President of the Security Council in a letter dated 19 December. The report said international police personnel had been training the Interim Public Security Force, and monitoring it and the Force armée d'Haiti for human rights abuses. A total of 3,000 students have now graduated from the transition course for the Interim Force, and have won the acceptance of the Haitian people.

Although incidents of violence among Haitians remained minimal and sporadic, the Multinational Force was involved in two violent incidents, according to the report. On 14 December, a patrol encountered a robbery in progress and opened fire, killing one Haitian. The following day in Gonaives, a special forces team had to use pepper spray on a crowd advancing on it. While threats to the Multinational Force remained low, isolated incidents of crime in the Port-au-Prince area prompted it to launch anti-crime missions. Those missions demonstrated the Force's commitment to maintaining a secure and stable environment in the city, the report noted.

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As of 15 December, Member States owed the United Nations some $2 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, more than $500 million was for assessments for the regular budget and $1.5 billion was for peace-keeping operations. Regular budget assessments for 1995 will be sent out to Member States on 1 January.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed a total of $645 million to the regular and peace-keeping budgets. The Russian Federation owed the United Nations $542 million.

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The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Justice Richard Goldstone, has had two days of talks with the Rwandan Government in Kigali, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Government assured Mr. Goldstone that it would cooperate fully in the establishment of the Office of the Prosecutor of the Rwanda Tribunal. The Office is expected to be opened next month.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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22 December 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council expresses concern at escalation of violence in Burundi, citing danger to stability of sub-region; calls on all concerned to refrain from violence and to respect 10 September Convention of Government.

+ Special Representative Akashi and UNPROFOR Force Commander meet with Bosnian parties in Sarajevo and Pale; formal signing of cease-fire agreement expected tomorrow.

+ Liberian factions conclude peace agreement in Accra; cessation of hostilities to take effect on 28 December.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends General Assembly appropriate $352.5 million for UNOSOM II, UNIFIL, UNDOF, International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia, and United Nations human rights programmes.

+ United Nations appeals for $70.3 million to fund emergency relief and rehabilitation activities in Somalia for next six months.

+ WFP says it will need 127,500 metric tons of food aid, at cost of $65 million, to assist 1.2 million Angolans in 1995.

* * *

The Security Council today expressed concern at the escalation of violence in Burundi, saying it threatened to further destabilize the country and could endanger the stability of the sub-region. In a statement read out by its President, Manzi Bakuramutsa (Rwanda), the Council called on all concerned to refrain from violence. It supported the efforts of the Burundi authorities in seeking to ensure that those committing or inciting acts of violence were held accountable for their actions, and that the militias still operating in the country were disarmed.

The Council encouraged the Government of Burundi and all others concerned, particularly the army, to respect and support the Convention of

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For information media—not an official record

Government of 10 September. They could thus avoid jeopardizing the delicate balance and relative stability in place since the Convention's implementation. It welcomed continuing efforts to bring about further political progress in the country, and underlined the importance of resolving all outstanding issues through dialogue, on the basis of the agreements reached thus far by the political parties. The Council urged all sides to reject confrontational tactics, violence and extremism, and to work towards compromise and conciliation in a spirit of national unity which transcended ethnic origins.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and General Bertrand de Lapresle, Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), met today with the Bosnian Government in Sarajevo, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The Government asked for minor revisions in a draft cease-fire agreement presented by the Special Representative. Mr. Akashi and General de Lapresle later went to Pale to discuss the document with the Bosnian Serb leadership, and were expected to have a further meeting with the Government in Sarajevo in the morning.

The spokesman said the draft agreement was expected to be signed tomorrow morning. It provides for a cease-fire to take effect at noon tomorrow, to be followed as soon as possible by talks on a cessation of hostilities to take effect on 1 January. Meanwhile, shelling was reported in the Bihac pocket today, and in Zepa and Gorazde yesterday.

* * *

The warring Liberian factions yesterday concluded a peace agreement in Accra, Ghana, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) was taking a cautious approach, but was encouraged by the fact that, for the first time, all of the factions had signed an agreement.

The agreement calls for a cessation of hostilities as of 28 December, the seating of a new transitional government within two weeks, disarmament of combatants, and the eventual holding of elections. UNOMIL has about 80 military observers in Liberia. The deployment was reduced by the Secretary-General, with the Security Council's approval, from an authorized strength of 368 in September.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate $352.5 million for three peace-keeping operations in Africa and the Middle East, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and United Nations human rights programmes. It took that action yesterday, in approving 12 drafts without a vote.

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The Committee recommended an appropriation of $254 million gross for the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for the period 1 October 1994 to 28 February 1995. It approved $16 million for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for the period 1 December 1994 to 31 May 1995. For periods beyond that, the Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $2.7 million monthly for six months from 1 June 1995, and apportion the sums among Member States. The Committee recommended $71 million, previously authorized and apportioned by the Assembly, for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for the period 1 August 1994 to 31 January 1995.

The Committee also recommended $7 million for the International Criminal Tribunal, and $4.5 million to pay for temporary posts in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Office in Cambodia and the Centre for Human Rights. By the terms of two drafts, the Assembly would redeploy some $1 million between sections of the 1994-1995 budget to help Africa's economic recovery and development.

In other actions, the Committee approved drafts to revise the appropriations for the biennium 1990-1991 and 1994-1995 to cover adjustments due to inflation, currency fluctuations and other factors. It would have the Assembly approve a net decrease of $21 million in the appropriations approved for 1994-1995, and a net decrease of $49 million in the estimates of income.

* * *

The United Nations today appealed for $70.3 million for emergency relief and short-term rehabilitation activities in Somalia for the first six months of next year. The appeal covers activities relating to education, the demobilization of combatants, and the provision of food aid to support reconstruction efforts.

The mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) will expire on 31 March 1995, but United Nations agencies have reaffirmed their commitment to continue humanitarian programmes whenever and wherever possible. According to the appeal, "failure to do so will result in a predictable new emergency which will, as in the past, exact a tragic toll in human lives and have severe consequences for stability in the subregion".

The appeal document was prepared by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in close consultation with national and international non-governmental organizations and other intergovernmental organizations active in Somalia. A significant amount of the funding requested will go towards supporting their activities.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has said that it will need 127,500 metric tons of food aid, at a cost of $65 million, to assist 1.2 million people in

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Angola next year. That estimate, based on a peace scenario that will allow farmers to plant and many displaced people to go home, points to a decrease of 700,000 in the number of people needing food aid this year.

In 1994, the WFP supplied Angolans with more than 200,000 tons of food aid at a cost of $100 million. The Programme has spearheaded humanitarian operations in Angola since war broke out after the elections in October 1992, delivering food aid all over the country, saving many people from hunger, malnutrition and death by starvation.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb leadership sign four-month cease-fire agreement, to take effect tomorrow; talks on cessation of hostilities to follow shortly.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves $2.548 billion preliminary budget outline for 1996-1997 biennium, and new scale of assessments for United Nations expenses for 1995 to 1997.

+ Secretary-General, in letter to President of Ghana, expresses satisfaction at conclusion of peace Agreement by Liberian parties in Accra.

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The Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serb leadership today signed a four-month cease-fire agreement put forward by Special Representative Yasushi Akashi, according to a United Nations spokesman. The cease-fire will take effect at noon, local time, tomorrow.

The spokesman said further talks would be held in the coming weeks with a view to a complete cessation of hostilities, including a separation of forces and the interposition of United Nations peace-keepers between the parties.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly approve the sum of $2.548 billion, at the revised 1994-1995 rates, as the preliminary budget outline for the 1996-1997 biennium. It also recommended regular budget appropriations of $1,335 billion for 1995, and set a new scale of assessments to apportion United Nations expenses for the years 1995 to 1997. The Committee took that action yesterday, by approving three draft resolutions, as it suspended its work of the session.

In other actions, the Committee approved an appropriation of $7.7 million gross ($7.4 million net), previously authorized for the United Nations Angola

Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for the period 9 December 1994 to 8 February 1995. On an exceptional basis, the Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $25 million for the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) for the period 16 November 1994 to 31 January 1995. By a draft on the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), the Assembly would take note of the already authorized amounts of $1.3 million for the period 1 August to 31 December 1994, and $9.5 million for the period 1 December 1994 to 28 February 1995.

By other drafts approved yesterday, the Assembly would appropriate $22 million for the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for the period 1 January to 30 June 1995, inclusive of the one-third share of the cost of the Force to be met through voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus and Greece's annual pledge of $6.5 million; appropriate and apportion $4.3 million for the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for the period 23 October 1994 to 13 January 1995; and appropriate $6.4 million for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period 1 December 1994 to 31 January 1995.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed satisfaction at the conclusion by the Liberian parties of a peace Agreement in Accra, Ghana. In a letter to President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana, he expressed hope that the parties would abide by their commitments and that the Agreement would herald an era of peace, national reconciliation and prosperity in Liberia.

The Secretary-General paid tribute to the tireless efforts of President Rawlings, saying the Agreement would not have been possible without his personal determination and persistence.

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Please note: This will be the last edition of the Daily Highlights for 1994. However, should circumstances warrant, Central News will issue a special Highlights next week. Happy holidays to all our readers.